Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto
Department of Biochemistry

September 12th, 1984

Dear Dan,

I'm sure we're all surprised at times when we discover work which should have been known to us beforehand. This is one of those occasions ; I can scarcely credit that I missed your earlier work in PNAS, but only last night I came across your paper in the July/84 issue of PNAS and seeing that it has parallels with our own work, I thought I should write to you about it. Proliferin has much in common with a protein we haved studied (Germin). Maybe Germin will prove to be Plant Proliferin ? Both are absent in non-growing cells, both have M_r values about 26 kDa, and both are synthesized during the transition between nongrowing and growing states. Germin exists as a homopentameric complex and lacks cysteine, but it seems possible that half-cystine residues in Proliferin might play the role played by other structural features in Germin.

I am taking the liberty of sending you, under separate cover, reprints of our work on Germin, together with a copy of our Departmental Brochure which capsulizes in general terms where we plan to go and why we choose to study the wheat embryo in our efforts to obtain generalizable insights about the transition from nongrowing to growing stages of development, using the dry (quiescent) embryo as a model system which quickly, in the course of germination, enters into a state of active growth following transformation of the mRNA population. I should be surprised if you know anything of our work since I continue, perhaps suicidally, to publish most of it in the Canadian Journal of Cell Biology & Biochemistry ; the only way in which you may have heard of it -- in which case I apologize for invading your time in this way -- is through the MS I sent to Dr. Ebashi in connection with the Lipmann Symposium in May of this year, but about which I have heard nothing further. Whatever the case, I hope you will find it interesting.

Having reminded you of my existence, and in the event it might fortuitously coincide with any efforts you may have in mind about about assisting young sprites in the environs with their plans for PDF work, may I say I'd be delighted to take in anyone you'd recommend ? A 'humble' apprenticeship with our plant system might be good preparation for subsequent elevation to the 'big leagues' of animal cells in culture ; and the city is a delightful one in which to spend a few years. My grant would allow me to take in a fresh M.D. or Ph.D. for a period of 3 years in case anyone is interested. Of course, if ever you pass this way, I'd be delighted to show you our city and its best dining spots, one of them being our own dining room (Inge is a magnificent cook), and would do all in my power to assist with travel expenses.

As ever, with warmest good wishes,

Sincerely,

Byron

Byron Lane

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